

Appl. No. : 10/681,766
Filed : October 8, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 44-54 are pending in this application. Claims 1-43 have previously been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. The Examiner rejected Claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis. The Examiner rejected Claims 44, 47, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German publication DE 9206753 U. The Examiner rejected Claims 44-47, 50, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,753,115 to Monteith in view of United States Patent No. 5,433,845 to Greene et al. The Examiner objected to Claims 51-53 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Acknowledgement of Personal Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his consideration in granting a personal interview to Applicant's attorney.

Response to the Rejection of Claim 46 For Indefiniteness

Applicant has amended Claim 46 to depend from Claim 45, thus curing the lack of antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that it is apparent on the face of Claim 46 that its former dependence on Claim 44 was a mere typographical error and that Claim 46 was intended to depend on Claim 45. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this amendment does no more than formally rewrite Claim 46 to reflect its apparent scope. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this amendment does not narrow the scope of Claim 46.

Applicant notes for clarity that the amendment is as follows: the claim number "44" has been deleted and replaced with "45." While other deletions are shown only by strike-through text only in the redlined listing of claims, this deletion is shown also by square brackets and bolded text because the strike-through text does not show up well.

Response to the Rejection of Claims 44 and 54 Under 102(b)

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication at the personal interview with Applicant's attorney that proposed amended Claim 44 is allowable over the prior art of record.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of Claim 44. Similarly, because Applicant has amended Claim 54 to include the language added to Claim 44, Applicant believes that Claim 54 is patentable over the prior art of record and respectfully requests the allowance of Claim 54.

Response to the Rejection of Claims 45-50

Because Claims 45-50 depend from Claim 44, which Applicant believes is patentable over the prior art of record, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of Claims 45-50. Furthermore, Applicant believes that the added limitations of Claims 45-50 would render Claims 45-50 independently patentable even if Claim 44 were found not patentable.

Response to the Objection to Claims 51-53

The Examiner objected to Claims 51-53 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant has rewritten Claim 51 in independent form. Applicant believes that Claims 51-53 are now allowable and respectfully requests their allowance. Applicant submits that this amendment does not change the scope of Claims 51-53.

Amendment Unrelated to Rejections or Objections

In view of the amendment to Claim 44, Applicant has amended Claim 47 in order to provide a consistent usage of terms common to Claim 44 and Claim 47. Accordingly, the purpose of these amendments is not to achieve patentability but to enhance clarity. Furthermore, Applicant does not believe that the amendments to Claims 47 narrows the scope of the claim.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated, Applicant believes that Claims 44-54 are patentable over the prior art of record and respectfully request the allowance of Claims 44-54.

If any issues remain to be resolved, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's attorney, Edward A. Schlatter, at his direct telephone number: (949) 721-2821.

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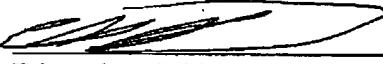
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated:

June 7, 2005

By: 

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AMEND

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